

Phasing out Timber Felling

1344. SHRIMATIKISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to phase out timber felling and thereby reduce deforestation;

(b) if so, whether State Governments have been consulted in this regards; and

(c) if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b). Following recommendations have been made in the meeting of Secretaries and Heads of Forests Departments of States and Union Territories in their meeting held on 30th and 31st May, 1988, to phase out timber felling and thereby reduce deforestation.

(1) Imposing a complete ban on felling in natural forests in a phase manner, by incorporating necessary legal changes within a period of five years, as indicated below:-

(a) Timber extraction to be stopped immediately in the following areas:-

- (i) Watersheds of all important river systems;
- (ii) all forests above a slope of 30.;
- (iii) forests with a density of less than 40% ;
- (iv) forests which are important from the view-point of conservation of biological diversity such as those in the north-eastern region, the Western Ghats and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands ; and

(v) forests for which no management plans have been prepared.

- (2) Taking up revision of all working plans most expeditiously and increasing the area under protection working circles to cover all or most of the natural forests.

(c) Action has been initiated by many States to impose a ban on felling of trees in selected watersheds, hill areas and areas of biological diversity.

Purchase of Cotton by CCI

1345. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of cotton purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India this year, State-wise, and its percentage to the total production of cotton in the country; and

(b) the targets, if any fixed for the purchase of cotton by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) During the cotton year 1988-89, the Cotton Corporation of India has purchased about 5.5% of the Cotton production in the country as per State-wise details give below:-

State	Quality (in bales)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	88,847
Gujarat	99,459

1	2
Haryana	65,238
Karnataka	29,309
Madhya Pradesh	88,780
Maharashtra	State Monopoly
Punjab	1,43,080
Rajasthan	51,044
Tamil Nadu	6,185
Others	190
Total	5,72,132

(b) Fixation of such a target is not feasible at present.

Target for Handloom Sector

1346. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the handloom sector for 1988-89 under the new Textiles Policy.

(b) how far the target could be achieved; and

(c) the reasons for the shortfall, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The target set for production of cloth in the handloom sector for 1988-89 was 4250 million metres.

(b) The production of handloom cloth during 1988-89 estimated on the basis of civil deliveries of hank yarn has been 3949 million metres.

(c) The shortfall in the production target is mainly due to (i) cost handicap suffered by handloom sector *vis-a-vis* the mill and powerloom sectors and (ii) rise in prices of yarn.

Small and Medium Towns in Assam

1347. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI :
Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of small and medium towns selected for Central *aid* in Assam under the scheme for Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns during the Seventh Plan; and

(b) the amount released by Union Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The details are as under :-

<i>Name of town</i>	<i>Central assistance released upto 31.3.1989 (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1. Karimganj	43.00
2. Diphu	20.00
3. Nagaon	24.00
Total	87.00